



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

BRIEFING: MAY 2011 EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM #5

TO: Chairman Pringle and Committee Members

FROM: Jeffrey M. Barker, Deputy Director

DATE: April 27, 2011

RE: United Kingdom Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Purpose

The California High-Speed Rail Authority has been requested to enter into an information-sharing focused Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Minister of State for Trade & Investment, an executive of the government of the United Kingdom. This is an informational item.

Background

The Authority's existing MOUs

The Authority currently has entered into MOUs with eight different countries: South Korea (2010), Belgium (2010), China (2009), France (2008), Germany (2009), Italy (2009), Japan (2005), and Spain (2003). The MOUs are all focused on cooperative information sharing, and do not incur any cost to the Authority. In recent months, the MOUs have proven beneficial in gathering the world's experience related to high-speed rail's impacts on agriculture and on California's proposed operations and maintenance plans.

Background: The UK's High-Speed Train Experience

The United Kingdom is home to the High Speed 1 (HS1) system (formerly known as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link) which is a 67-mile rail line that carried train passengers from the UK to mainland Europe. Service is provided by four operators: Eurostar, First Capital Connect, East Midlands Trains, and Southeastern Railway.

In November 2010, it was announced that two Canadian pension funds would purchase from the UK government a 30-year concession to operate HS1 for £2.1 billion, which exceeded expectations.

There is a campaign in the UK to develop “HS2,” a high-speed rail line initially linking London and Birmingham, and later to Manchester and Leeds.